

There is no more reliable preventive nor more efficacious remedy against the evils threatening us, than the Third Order. The annual total income of the United States is very high; in 1943 it amounted to 142 billion dollars. Yet there is distressing poverty among us. The poor need encouragement and consolation in order not to rebel against their unfortunate condition. *The very purpose of the Third Order* is to teach us the true value of the good things of earth, to fortify us against their seductive attractions, to turn our thoughts and aspirations heavenward, to make us humble and patient, and to prepare us for the life to come. To render us immune, the Third Order employs safe and well-proved means together with business-like methods, at the same time offering more supernatural assistance than any other lay organization.

As an American you cannot refuse to give this matter serious attention. You owe it to your God, your country and to yourself. You need the Third Order, and the Third Order needs you. A Franciscan America will be a happy America.

Act like an American! Seize the opportunity now! Become a genuine Franciscan Tertiary!

Third Order of St. Francis

St. Boniface Fraternity

501 Fehr Ave., Louisville 2, Ky.

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AMERICAN CATHOLICS Should be FRANCISCAN TERTIARIES

AMERICA is a Franciscan country. A Franciscan Tertiary discovered it and opened it up to the world. The Franciscan, Fr. Juan Perez, urged Columbus on to his discovery; another Tertiary provided him with the necessary means by depriving herself of personal comforts. Listen to the words of Cardinal Dougherty of Philadelphia: *"There is no country in the world that is more profoundly indebted to the Third Order of St. Francis than America. Not only was Christopher Columbus himself a member of the Third Order of St. Francis, but when he was turned down by the wise men of Ferdinand, the Spanish king, the queen, by virtue of her wearing the cord of St. Francis and under the spiritual direction of a Friar Minor, Francis of Calabria, an ardent supporter of the Genoese navigator, was moved to provide the ships for the expedition, which in turn, were largely manned by Tertiaries."*

America's soil is sanctified by the blood of martyred Franciscans. The first to gain the martyr's crown in the United States were Franciscan missionaries. In fact, among the 111 Martyrs of the United States for whom the American Hierarchy is seeking beatification and canonization are no less than seventy-four Franciscans.

The Sons of St. Francis were the first to evangelize and civilize America. They planted the Cross on fertile soil, never to be uprooted. They consecrated the country by offering there for the first time the Immaculate Lamb of God to the Heavenly Father. There are twenty-one old Franciscan Missions within the State of Texas alone. What Archbishop Hanna of San Francisco says of his State may be applied to others: *"California owes exceedingly much to the Sons of St. Francis. From the Sons of this mighty Leader we received in California not only our religion but also the foundation of that civilization which has grown into greatness in our present day."*

St. Francis anticipated American democracy. There never lived a better democrat, nor one who wielded a wider, deeper or more lasting influence than this doughty *"Champion of the People."* The temporal and spiritual welfare of the people was the great dream of his life, and he realized that dream as only a man of his keen vision, intense conviction, firm resolve, complete self-sacrifice and spotless character could realize it. He broke up feudalism and made freedom the birthright of every man.

The institutions of St. Francis are models of democracy, and his Third Order is the most democratic. It is built on the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. Its membership and government are a shining illustration and exemplification of the equality of men. Personal initiative and development of individu-

ality belong to its characteristics. The framers of our National Constitution must have been guided by the ideals of St. Francis; at least, they must have had a good share of his idealism.

The Tertiary Rule breathes the American spirit. It is admirably adapted to the genius of the American Nation. We are known as a sober, straightforward, practical, hardworking and liberty-loving people—precisely the kind of men and women to whom the Third Order should appeal. The Third Order is simple in its constitution, and its requirements are not too difficult. It fosters a common-sense Christianity, discourages extravagances of devotion and eccentricities of piety, and condemns weak sentimentalism. *In American fashion it points out the straight way to Heaven* and gives short, clear-cut directions for success in the one and all-important business of salvation. It advocates true, Christian liberty and allows a wide range of activities. No matter from what angle you consider it, it is just the thing for the American character and the American mode of life.

We need the Third Order as an antidote for the dangers which beset us. Our practical turn of mind, our social inclinations, our matter-of-fact ways, and our industrial life are very apt to make us forget the invisible and the eternal. In our land of prosperity and affluence the heart may easily become attached to wealth, and thereby *"fall into temptation, into the snare of the devil, and into many unprofitable and hurtful desires which draw men into destruction and perdition."*